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Ueber die Auto-suggestion bei den Hypnotisirten. N. CYBULSKI. Centralblatt f. Physiologie, No. 12.

Although cases in which hypnotic subjects can send themselves to sleep have been recorded, no special observation of the phenomenon has been made. The author observed that such subjects could hypnotize themselves at any time and entirely independently of the operator. For this purpose the subject has only to imagine for a minute or less that the operator commands him to sleep. The author, without the subject's knowledge, induced a third party (who had no influence on the subject) to propose to the hypnotic that he should imagine that a definite time after awakening he should perform a certain action or have a certain hallucination. Although the subject did not suspect that this proposal originated with the operator, he went through the suggestion in detail. Furthermore, if the subject imagines on going to sleep that he is in rapport with a certain person, even though hypnotized by his operator, he remains indifferent to the latter. From these observations the author concludes : (1). That the rapport between subject and operator is due simply to the fact that the former has the latter in mind when passing into the hypnotic state. (2). That all hypnogenic methods are at bottom only various devices for getting the subject to fix his attention upon a single concept. (3). These observations help to explain such phenomena as hypnotizing through the telephone and certain phases of so-called "telepathy." (4). That results are valid only if the subject in the waking condition had no knowledge of what it is proposed to do with him when hypnotized ; if he does know it, any result whatever can be obtained. This explains what has been ascribed to the action of the magnet, and so on.

J. J.

Magnetismus und Hypnotismus. Eine Darstellung dieses Gebietes mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Beziehungen zwischen den mineralischen Magnetismus und dem sogenannten thierischen Magnetismus oder Hypnotismus. G. GAßMANN. 218 pp.

This volume appears in a series of manuals forming an electro-technical library, and the scientific character of its associations gives it a scientific appearance which it far from deserves. The material is indiscriminately collected from all sources ; an account of a strictly scientific experiment on one page and an utterly incredible sensational (alleged) fact on the next. While denying that the magnet can do all that the mediaeval sorcerers claimed for it, the author yet holds that its influence on the body is underestimated, and that it is "an incontrovertible fact that water undergoes some change by being magnetized with the hand."

The author has invented an improved "hypnoscope" or little magnet, to be applied to the finger, and by the sensations then aroused to furnish a criterion of the hypnotizability of the subject. Two thirds of about 500 persons who tried it experienced certain peculiar sensations, and many of these were more or less ready hypnotic subjects. But the many experiments in which magnets of the greatest strength have been used in such a way as to preclude the action of the subject's imagination, without getting the slightest result, are utterly ignored. In the same way no mention is made of the experiments that show that transfers can be obtained independently of the magnet. The author assumes as a proved fact what is a